

PHILBY CASE FAILS TO DISTURB U.S.

Intelligence Aides Retain
Faith in the British

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LONDON, Nov. 4—The American intelligence community retains confidence in its British counterpart despite the recent flurry of spy reports here. That is the judgment expressed by sources here and in Washington.

The articles in the British press have covered old ground—namely the case of Harold A. R. "Kim" Philby, who spied for the Russians for 30 years. He worked for British Intelligence until 1955, continued his spying as a journalist, then four years ago defected to the Soviet Union, where he now lives.

Some new details in the case have turned up, but United States officials say they have long known about Philby, worked with British officials in the nineteen-fifties to expose him, and see no reason to feel that the articles jeopardize British-American intelligence relations.

U.S. Spending More

The United States, of course, has become the "big boy" in the intelligence field now and spends many times more than the \$30-million or so the British allocate for such activities each year.

The United States for example, is far ahead on the technological side with its complicated and sensitive electronics equipment and its Samos reconnaissance satellites. The British have kept such expenses down.

Despite the huge United States operation, sources in Washington, when asked about the present state of the relationship, said the "British pull their weight" and have an "undoubted genius" for intelligence work.

As one put it: "What binds us is common language, common interests, common law and neither of us is a police state. In a democracy, you're going to have Philbys inevitably. MI-6 and MI-5 have both done a hell of a good job." MI-6 is the service that deals with counter-espionage, while MI-5 deals with external intelligence activities.

Such praise by Americans of the British network was not heard in the nineteen-fifties, perhaps the low point in the relationship. This was because of the Philby case and the defection to the Soviet Union by former British diplomats who had worked in Washington—Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean.

In those years, the American and British intelligence communities were said to have had drifted far apart. There was an increasing reluctance by United States officials to share information with the British and a clear unwillingness to accept British security clearances automatically.

The personality of the then head of MI-6 was also a factor in the declining relationship. Sir John Sinclair, a major general who headed military intelligence toward the end of World War II, was said to be a man for whom American agents had less than the highest regard.